

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 An apparatus for conveying signals between a
communications card and a signal utilization device or
network. In one form (Figs. 1,2), structures are provided
for receiving one or more RJ series plugs and for making
electrical connection with at the contacts on the plug and
conveying any signals on the contacts to a communications
device such as a telephone, facsimile machine, modem, or a
local area network adapter. A body (102) includes one or
10 more recesses (106) which receive the plug. An expandable
and stretchable membrane (114) isolates the contacts in the
plug from electrical contact with an object in a surrounding
environment such that passage of current from one or more of
the electrical contacts to an object present in the
surrounding environment is prevented. Also provided (Figs.
7, 14) is a replaceable direct access arrangement (151, 258)
which is replaceably held within the communications device
(150, 250). Both the structures providing the receptacles
and the direct access arrangement are easily removable in
20 case of damage or if other functions are desired. The
replaceable direct access arrangement allows operation in
countries having different telecommunications standards and
allows operation with many different communications devices.
Alternative structures for allowing connection to RJ series
25 plugs are described. Wireless communication structures are
also described.